

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 046026
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY PM:EDNEWSOM
APPROVED BY EUR:GVEST
PM:DGOMPERT
NSC:RBARTHOLOMEW
S/S:CGOLDSMITH

-----122227 222306Z /65

O 222210Z FEB 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 046026

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, SALT, ER

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DELABOULAYE ON SALT
CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 44038

1. SUMMARY: VEST, BARTHOLOMEW AND GOMPERT MET WITH
DELABOULAYE FEBRUARY 21 TO RECEIVE GOF REACTIONS TO US
POSITIONS FOR FEBRUARY 24 NAC OUTLINED IN REFTTEL. FRENCH
VIEWS WERE ALONG LINES DELABOULAYE PREDICTED IN FEBRUARY
18 DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 046026

2. ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION, DELABOULAYE SAID THAT PARIS STILL
BELIEVES THE SOVIETS WILL NOT SEE A NON-CIRCUMVENTION
CLAUSE AS MERELY A RESTATEMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS INHERENT
IN THE AGREEMENT, AS THE US ARGUES. IN THE FRENCH VIEW,
THE SOVIETS SEEK AN EXPLICIT NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROVISION
AS A LEGAL BASIS TO INTERFERE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US

AND THE ALLIES. DELABOULAYE SAID PARIS IS NOT RPT NOT CONVINCED BY US ARGUMENTS THAT THE FALLBACK REFERENCE TO "OTHER STATES" WILL NOT ADD ANY OBLIGATIONS. THE GOF FEARS THE SOVIETS WILL USE THIS REFERENCE AS A MEANS TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE US AND THE ALLIES. WE SIMPLY NOTED THAT WE HAD MADE THE CASE FOR OUR NON-CIRCUMVENTION APPROACH, AND THAT IN ANY CASE, WE SEEMED TO BE SPEAKING ABOUT A TACTICAL ISSUE; BUT OUR SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIVES -- TO PROTECT OUR FLEXIBILITY AND ALLIANCE COOPERATION -- WERE THE SAME.

3. ON OUR GRAY AREA SYSTEMS FORMULATION FOR A UNILATERAL STATEMENT ON SALT III OBJECTIVES, DELABOULAYE SAID THE GOF BELIEVES IT CREATES THE IMPRESSION OF A DISCRETE THEATER BALANCE SEPARATE FROM THE STRATEGIC BALANCE, A CONCEPT WHICH PARIS REJECTS AS DECOUPLING. DELABOULAYE SAID THAT IS LANGUAGE THAT MAKES CLEAR THAT THEATER SYSTEMS INVOLVED ARE PART OF THE OVERALL STRATEGIC BALANCE WOULD BE BETTER. DELABOULAYE STRESSED THAT HIS THOUGHTS WERE PERSONAL AND THAT THE GOF WAS NOT PREPARED TO SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE. HOWEVER, FOR HIS PART, DELABOULAYE BELIEVED THE FORMULATION, TO BE ACCEPTABLE, SHOULD CERTAIN LANGUAGE THAT REFERRED TO THE STRATEGIC BALANCE AND MADE CLEAR THAT ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAY AREA SYSTEMS WOULD BE A CONTINUATION OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE STRATEGIC BALANCE, I.E., SALT III. HE CONCLUDED THAT MOST OF THIS DISCUSSION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 046026

WAS PERSONAL ON HIS PART AND THAT THE FRENCH DELEGATION AT THE NAC ON FEBRUARY 24 WOULD PROBABLY NOT SAY MUCH ABOUT THE FORMULATION AND LANGUAGE POSSIBILITIES. WE AGREED WITH DELABOULAYE'S CONCERN ABOUT A SEPARATE EUROSTRATEGIC BALANCE NOTION, AND SAID OUR FORMULATION WAS IN THE SALT CONTEXT AND THIS, COUPLED WITH THE LANGUAGE, OFFSET THE NOTION OF SEPARATE LEVELS OF BALANCE. WE SAID THAT IN ANY CASE WE DID NOT PLAN TO GIVE PRECISE LANGUAGE TO THE NAC, AS WE WISHED TO DISCUSS THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE FORMULATION WITH THE ALLIES. WE DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, WHICH WE WILL WISH TO PERFECT AFTER RECEIVING ALLIED VIEWS, AND WILL CONSIDER DELABOULAYE'S POINTS IN THAT CONTEXT.

4. IF ER COMES UP AT THE NAC, DELABOULAYE SAID THE FRENCH POSITION, WHICH WOULD BE EXPRESSED IN THE MEETING, WOULD BE THIS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE 14 NOT THE 15, AND THAT FRANCE COULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE. WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THE GOF POSITION THAT FRANCE IS NOT RPT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE DECISION, BUT ASKED IF PARIS WOULD NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION OF THE ARMS CONTROL. DELABOULAYE NOTED THE DISTINCTION, SPECULATED THAT PARIS

MIGHT IN FACT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN A "PHILOSOPHICAL"
DISCUSSION OF THE ARMS CONTROL ELEMENT, AND UNDERTOOK TO
MAKE THIS CASE TO PARIS. WE ALSO NOTED THAT EVEN IF FRANCE
WAS NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY COLLECTIVE DECISION ON
ER, ITS UNILATERAL PUBLIC POSTURE WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO
US AND OTHERS. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE046026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EDNEWSOM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840142-2283
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780226/aaaaavsf.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a042bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 44038
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3515698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH DELABOULAYE ON SALT CONSULTATION
TAGS: PARM, FR, US, UR
To: PARIS USNATO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a042bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014